problem of the unemployment of the literate, to improve methods of agriculture and to add to the food-supply of the country and the earning capacity of its citizens. An analogous scheme, suggested by Captain Petavel of Calcutta, is now receiving encouragement in Bengal at the hands of such distinguished men as Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee, while, in the neighbouring province of Madras, another retired High Court Judge and an ex-Member of the Indian Legislative Assembly is engaged in developing a similar scheme with the aid of private effort.

11. Land Conservancy and Land Records. The conservation of *porambokes* and other Government lands required for public purposes, attenuated by indiscriminate occupations and assignments in the past, is of no less concern to the landholder than the availability of lands which may be legitimately used for cultivation; and it was with a view, among other things, to achieve some tangible results in this direction that the scope of the land records maintenance scheme was revised in 1096, its operation being mainly restricted to the inspection of *porambokes*, the detection of encroachments thereon, and the survey, demarcation and plotting of *poramboke* numbers and their sub-divisions. In the discharge of this important function, the Land Records staff has shown more satisfactory results in 1098 than in the previous years, due evidently to the greater experience gained by the Assistant Tahsildars and their staff and the undivided attention which the Assistant Superintendent of Survey has been able to devote to the supervision of their work in his new capacity of Land Records Superintendent. The refixing of theodolite stations was practically completed and a proportionately larger outturn than in the previous years was secured under other heads of work from the staff employed. The dual control of the Peishkars and the Land Records Superintendent, to which Assistant Tahsildars and their staff were subject till the close of 1098, having been found to hamper the celerity of their work, they have been now placed directly under the control of the Land Records Superintendent, the Peishkars and the Tahsildars having nothing to do with them until their field work is finished and the records sent over to the Tahsildars. Moreover, the rules issued under the Land Conservancy Regulation, IV of 1091, are now better understood and have become acceptable to the public as a result of the substantial concessions referred to in paragraph 7 of my last year's Address. It is therefore to be hoped that this important item of land records work will be soon completed. The functions of the Revenue, Public Works and other departments as well as of Municipal Councils, in the matter of future conservation of *porambokes*, have now been clearly defined, and there can be no excuse hereafter for dilatoriness on the part of any officer in that respect.

12. Transfer of registry. In addition to its main function of the survey of *porambokes* and the detection of encroachment, the Land Records staff, on its reorganisation, was entrusted with the survey of sub-divisions involved in pending *pokkuvaravu* cases. The work so turned out has come up to 38,806 sub-divisions in the course of a little over two years and transfer of registry has presumably been effected in most of these cases. This is satisfactory so far as it goes; but recently a closer scrutiny of the *pokkuvaravu* cases still pending revealed the fact that there were more than 53,000 such cases awaiting disposal in the several taluks, and that, of these, as many as 44,000 roughly were cases involving sub-divisions and could not, under the existing rules, be disposed of without a survey of the sub-divisions involved. Government were thus confronted with the problem of the disposal of this huge volume of *pokkuvaravu* arrears which had to be done within the short space of about 15 months, should the electoral roll for the next general elections to the Legislative Council, due in 1100 M. E., make any approach to accuracy; and it has in consequence been decided that, inasmuch as the areas ascertained by sub division survey could not, when they differed from those specified in the documents of transfer, be adopted in the decisions in *pokkuvaravu* cases, under G. O. No. 7195/L. R., dated the 22nd November, 1917, such survey as regards the pending and future *pokkuvaravu* cases might well be dispensed with for the present, and that all those cases might be disposed of on the basis of the areas entered in the documents of transfer. Under this simplified arrangement, it must be possible for the normal Land Revenue staff to wipe off the arrears under *pokkuvaravu* before the revision of the electoral roll becomes due next year. But even for expediting the work under this

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly